

THE REHEARSAL Of Observator, &c.

Of the Former and Present STATE of LEGION. Of the Burning of London, An. 1666.

From Saturday August the 26th, to Saturday September the 2d, 1704.

Country-m. I Left thee last time Going to thy Council Learned in the Law, and the Close-Junko-Cabal. What have they determin'd? What have I now to do? Have they Quite given over the Cause? And must we sit down Quietly under a Church of England-Queen, and Church of England Ministry? Charm'd with the Noise of their good Management of the Treasury and Councils at Home, and their Glorious Successes Abroad!

Obs. No, *Country-man*, our LEGION is of that Breed of Devils, who defy the Voice of the Charmer. Charm he never so Wisely. For they stop their Ears. They are Deaf ADDERS. But they are not Dumb. None Hiss so Loud as they. And the Word is Given, to Hiss now more Loudly than ever. For we have to Do with a People who are all Ears, but have no Eyes. And therefore they Believe every thing that they Hear, but nothing that they See. Make a Noise, TOM, —Hollow, BOYS, Hollo,— That carries it with the Mobb—Who care not a Farthing for all your Reasoning and Disputing. You had as good Preach to a Beetle; Or to the Roaring of the Sea. Therefore we must fill them with Resentments, and work upon their Passions.

And one special Rule is Given to Us, never to matter Truth or Falshood. That will Hamper ones Invention. And it is all one as to Mobb, the one goes down as well as the other.

Country-m. Right! *Master*. That is the constant Rule we have observ'd all the way from Forty One downwards. But the Rogues will be Disproving of our Lies. What shall we do then?

Obs. Psha, Man, thou art an Ofe. Thou art not half Learn'd in our Mystery. DISPROVE Quotha! What signifies that? Repeat the same Lie, over and over again, and with Ten times more Assurance. Never heed Answering. Who minds Answers. 'Tis the Weakest side that Answers. They are the Defendants. And it is the Attacking Party carries it, Ten to One.

That Martyr and Head of the Church in Forty-me-time, whom we made a Calves-Head of, was full of his Answering. And what did we Return to his Fine well-Penn'd DECLARATIONS and MESSAGES, full of Reason, Law, and all that? The more of that we found in it, we Answer'd it with a more Insolent and Bold RESOLVE. And we Carry'd it. For that shew'd we had Power. And the less Reason that Power gives, it is the Greater.

You may as well Preach in a Battle, or make a Speech to a Great Gun, as seek to Convince those by Reason, who Contend for Power.

Country-m. But when the Power is on their side too——As they have evidently Gain'd it by these late Victories, more over Us, than over the French; who, I'm afraid may Recruit sooner than we can do. How then, *Master*?

Obs. Ne'r trouble thy Head. They know better how to Get a Victory over Us, than how to make use of it, when they have Got it. They'll begin to Court and Flatter Us again, to shew their Moderation! And still continue to Employ Us in Places of Power to Please Us. This was the Method us'd by King Charles II. all along. Who often had it in his Power to have Cruist Us to Nothing, and Ended what he call'd our Rebellion. This gave Us still new Strength, and we Gain'd by his Advantages over Us, as well as by Ours over Him. For this shew'd us to be the Considerable Party that must be Gratify'd; And of whom the Government was Afraid. This Magnify'd Us in the Eyes of the People, till we Got them All over to Us at last.

They had a greater Victory over Us than all they have Gain'd this Summer, when we lost our Im-Mortal King William, and her present Majesty Ascended the Throne, with an Heart Entirely English, and who Promis'd to Maintain the Church of England, as by Law Establish'd; And to Promote those who were Constantly Zealous for her, with a very Just Regard. We were then under their Feet. We were Known in the Streets. None of Us having the Heart to look above his Toes. They needed not have Trod upon the poor Worms. We were Gasping our Last. Even I my self, *Country-man*, do'st not Remember, then Tack'd about, to save our Bacon, and laid Load upon K. William and his Ministry, particularly the Foreigners, which was the Language we thought wou'd Please. What a bloody Character did I give of the E. of A——le in my Observators of Dec. 26. and 30. 1702. telling of what vast Sums of English Money were Given him to Build his House in Gelderland, which I Equal'd almost to Versailles. Then I fell upon the other Dutch Favourite the E. of P——nd, and said, That he was not willing to let any Body Plunder the King besides himself. And from what was Given them and others, I wonder'd what became of all the Money was Rais'd? And in Contempt of these Dutch-Men, I said in mine of

January

January 6. 1702. That this is but *Scandalum Magnarum Equorum Battavorum*. And coming to more Private Affairs, I could tell Of many things that would surprize the World; and if I don't Publish all (say I) 'tis not to Spare the Living. And I tell that I had all this from a Friend that Attended the late King 12 Years together, Here and beyond Sea, a Person of such Judgment that nothing Escap'd him. And I conclude, To shew my Countrymen, how much they have been Mised and Deluded by Men who liv'd at Discretion on the Publick in the late Reign, and gain'd a Popular Applause to Justifie them in their Piracies on the Nations Treasure. But that my Meaning might be more plainly understood, and to curry Favour in time, I Profess'd in my Observer of Dec. 26. 1702. To Share the Fate of those Worthy Membersexpos'd to publick Scandal by Execrable Wretches in a BLACK LIST; and of that Good Parliament against which the LEGIONITES drew up their Forces. And in my next Observer of Dec. 30. I Blacken K. William; and call the Peace of Reswick, which he made, Shameful to the English Nation. And say of him, He was a Stranger to our Country, and knew not the Merits and Sufferings of our Natives. This was to shew the Happiness of a Prince that was English Born. Then I add, The Neglect of Us proceeded from the Vertue of the English Triumvirat, and other Great Saints of little value. And that we were Betray'd and Impoverish'd in the late Reign.

To this Condition, Country-man, were we then Reduc'd! To Call our BEST Friends Execrable Wretches; And our Fears made us Court the very BLACK-LIST Tantivy-men and High-flyers, as Worthy Members. Nay, we Renounced LEGION our GOD. Because we thought he could no longer Protect Us. And had we been but left to our selves a little longer, without any Force, or other Ill Usage, we had Dy'd away; We had All been at Church, by this Time, without Occasional Conformity. We had been Content, and Thankful too, to be Permitted to Live Peaceably, without Grasping after Power.

But as soon as we were Warm'd with the Rays of Royal Favour, and found that we were either Fear'd or Lov'd so much, as to be Entrusted with a Share of the Government; We Immediately got new Spirits, and Power was again in our View. From that time forth we set our Engines on Work to Renew the Republican Principles; And to Blacken and Asperse all of the Church Interest that were in the Ministry, with no Obscure Reflections upon the Supream Authority. In all which I was Employ'd as Trumpeter-General, and have taken True Pains, because it requires more Lungs than Brains.

Since that time, the Church has not had such a Hit at Us as Now. As I said before, if they know how to make use of it. They may now do what they will. They may settle the whole Ministry in their own Hands; and be Rid of our Din for ever. For we are Never Troublesome, but when we have a Share of the Power; And then we Contend for the Whole. This we Always have done; And ever will do.

But, Alas! We now cannot so much as find Fault, if the whole Ministry were put into their Hands, who have Manag'd so well, and had such

Glorious Successes! For Victories Charm the People. And the more Now, Considering what Rarities they were in the last Reign, when We had the Administration, and when None of our Armies were Commanded by an English, far less a Church-man.

But, on the other side, Country-man, if they are Afraid of Us, and Dare not take this Advantage they have Got against Us; But continue Us still in those Posts of Honour and Power that we have: Then what can Conquer Us, or Save Them? Who are ne'r the nearer for their Victories; And must be Ruin'd with their first Ill-Success Which they know we have both Skill and Courage to Improve. And use not to slip an Advantage. We Play with GENEROUS Gamblers! Who Take not what they Win; But must Pay what they Lose.

Country-m. Thou hast made it out, Master! All's our own! We can never Lose at this Rate, or Ever be Discourag'd. We Live in Hope, and the Church in Fear, let them get what Victories they will.

But since we are thus securely Settled, better than by Act of Parliament, I would have a little Hanging-Work, to Clear up this Sad Day. Thou know'st I'm all for Fighting or Hanging Stories! This is the Day we keep for the Burning of London. Was no Body Hang'd for't since?

Obs. I know not. But there were some Hang'd for't before.

Country-m. What! before it was Done?

Obs. Yes, Five Months before.

Country-m. How could that be?

Obs. Why, the Conspiracy was Detected, both for Killing the King, and the Burning of London, the April before the City was Burnt, in the Year 1666. Eight of the Conspirators were Taken and Try'd at the Old Baily, and Hang'd for't. And Proclamations were Issu'd out after others of them who Fled. The Tryal of those Eight who Suffer'd was Printed. Wherein the Evidence was Full and Clear against them. And that the 2d of September following was the Day Appointed by their Juncto for the Burning of London. And these Conspirators said, That tho' they were Taken, the Design would go on, and London shou'd be Burnt that same Day; for it Cou'd not be Alter'd, because they had Cast a Scheme for it. And it was Burn'd the same Day. For the Fire began on the 2d of September, about 11 or 12 at Night, That it might be well Lighted in the Morning.

Country-m. I must see that Tryal. I'll warrant these were some of the High-Flying—Tantivy Church-Men. They ought all to be Hang'd. We shall ne'er be Quiet for 'em. Nor then neither.

Obs. I hear that Tryal will be Re-Printed. In the mean time, you may see something of it in the London Gazette of Apr. 26 and 30, 1666. Nam. 47, 48, & 49.

Country-m. Thou hast set me a Gogg. I shall not Sleep 'till I Read these Gazette. And thou shalt Publish them in thy Observators. We'll turn it upon the High-Church. Now we have the Dogs in a String.